

HONORING LAVELL D. MONGER AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, at 31 years of age, LaVell D. Monger prides himself on impacting his community. LaVell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Missouri—St. Louis, where he was born and raised. He later received his Master of Education with an emphasis on higher education leadership from Florida Atlantic University. LaVell serves on boards of many notable non-profit organizations in the region and is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Moving to Osceola County to serve as co-owner of RTW Photography in 2018, LaVell oversees business development and community outreach. Since moving to Central Florida, he has been committed to making a difference in his community. Immediately, LaVell became part of many conversations to advance regional commerce, equality in education, and urban development.

In 2023, the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce will inaugurate LaVell D. Monger as the first African American board chair. He was vital in implementing a young professionals program and revitalizing the Government Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Osceola Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Through his leadership, the Black Business Coalition of Osceola County is one of the chambers' most successful initiatives.

In 2021, knowing the impact being a member of the Boys and Girls Club had on him growing up in St. Louis and how it shaped him into the young professional he is today, LaVell partnered with other community leaders to start a task force to open St. Cloud's first Boys and Girls Club branch. During the pandemic, this effort meant raising \$600,000 from community leaders so children in St. Cloud could have the support they need to succeed.

Innovative in business and selfless to the community, LaVell built his network knowing the importance of relationships and integrity while continuing to prioritize his community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL HARRY T. STEWART, JR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month, I want to honor Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. Stewart, Jr., one of our Nation's most decorated Tuskegee Airmen who flew with the storied Red Tails, the 332nd Fighter Group made up of African American pilots in the then-segregated U.S. military.

Stewart's lifelong passion for flight began at a young age. At the age of 17, he passed a military exam identifying potential pilots and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. Following flight training at Tuskegee Airfield in Alabama, Stewart was awarded his pilot wings and was commis-

sioned as a second lieutenant. Stewart then completed combat fighter training in both the P-40 Warhawk and the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter aircraft, and in 1944 was sent to Italy for combat operations. As a member of the all-black 332d Fighter Group, Stewart flew 43 combat missions in the P-51 Mustang, escorting heavy bombers to their targets, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross.

In addition to his heroic actions during World War II, Stewart represented the 332nd Composite Group in the inaugural ten-day "William Tell" National Gunnery meet in Nevada. This meet would later become the equivalent of the U.S. Navy's "Top Gun" competition. His team's skills shined through in the competition, and the 332nd won first place in the conventional fighter class.

Stewart received an honorable discharge in 1950 and stayed in the Reserves, eventually retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree and worked in the private sector until his retirement, and now resides in Michigan.

Please join me in recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Harry T. Stewart, Jr. as we celebrate his courageous service to our country.

RECOGNIZING JOHNNY "THE JET"
RODGERS

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of African American History Month, we recognize a leader who has helped people of all ages thrive in sports, education, and life. North Omaha's and Nebraska's Johnny "the Jet" Rodgers is more than a sports legend; he is a community champion.

Johnny became known as "the Jet" because of his speed and agility. Even in his teenage years, participating in football, track, and basketball, the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame described Johnny's performance as "nothing short of legendary." He would go on to establish an incredible football career as a punt returner, pass receiver, and running back at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

On his way to winning the Heisman in 1972, Johnny set an all-purpose 5,586-yard NCAA record; 72 yards were attributed to a punt return during the "Game of the Century" between Nebraska and Oklahoma in 1971. Not only did this gain him national acclaim, but College Football News and former coach Tom Osborne would go on to recognize Johnny as one of the best kick returners in college football history. He would later be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame after a professional career in the NFL for the San Diego Chargers and the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes.

When he returned to his hometown, he began building a legacy as an entrepreneur and community leader. While mentoring and teaching life skills to young athletes, Johnny served as the President of the 100 Black Men of Omaha and began the prestigious "Jet Award" honoring the best return specialist in NCAA Division 1 college football, all while creating the Johnny Rodgers Career and Technical Scholarship—serving students from ages 18 to 62, emphasizing the value and accessibility in education.

Beyond his commitment to education is his belief in representation. Johnny and I have had the honor of working together to achieve one of the country's highest response rates to the Decennial U.S. Census. Johnny lent his time and community connections to advocate for a complete and detailed census where "Everybody Counts."

On and off the field, Johnny has continued to accelerate and elevate his community. We thank him for his dedication to his hometown and his willingness to lead. On behalf of our Omaha community, I thank my friend for his leadership and service to our community.

HONORING SAN ANTONIO ARTIST
AND VETERAN JESSE TREVIÑO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the late Jesse Treviño, an internationally celebrated artist whose work has significantly influenced San Antonio's cultural landscape.

Jesse "Jesse" Treviño was born on December 24, 1946, in Monterrey, Mexico, and moved to San Antonio when he was 4 years old. One of 12 siblings, Jesse grew up on our city's Westside in the Prospect Hill neighborhood.

Jesse won his first art award, at the age of 6, for drawing a pair of doves in a student art competition sponsored by the Witte Museum.

As a young adult, he spent a year studying at the prestigious Art Students League of New York before he was drafted into the United States Army and sent to Vietnam. He was not a U.S. citizen at the time, but he felt an obligation to serve the country he called home.

In Vietnam, Jesse served in an infantry battalion deployed to the Mekong Delta until his unit came under fire in February 1967. Sprinting towards a helicopter, Jesse "felt a pair of crushing explosions nearby, and then a third thundering blast suddenly lifted him from the ground and flung him about 50 feet into a rice paddy."

When Jesse reflected on that moment in a 2009 interview with the San Antonio Express-News, he said he thought of his mother, brothers, and the barrio he grew up in. Jesse wanted to use his talent to paint these people and images.

However, life as he knew it would change forever. Jesse's injuries were severe and resulted in an amputation of his right hand. He was discharged from the Army in 1968.

Two years later, Jesse enrolled in San Antonio College and taught himself to paint with his left hand. It was through Jesse's love for the arts and his determination to capture San Antonio's Chicano culture and history that he became one of San Antonio's most famous artists.

Jesse is responsible for signature pieces, including "Mi Vida," an 8-by-14-foot pop art-inspired mural, "The Spirit of Healing," a 93-foot-tall mural on the side of the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, and "La Veladora," a three-dimensional, 40-foot-tall mural of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Some of his works have also been featured in the Smithsonian American Art Museum.